



“Coffins for Cremation”

By Julian M Atkinson

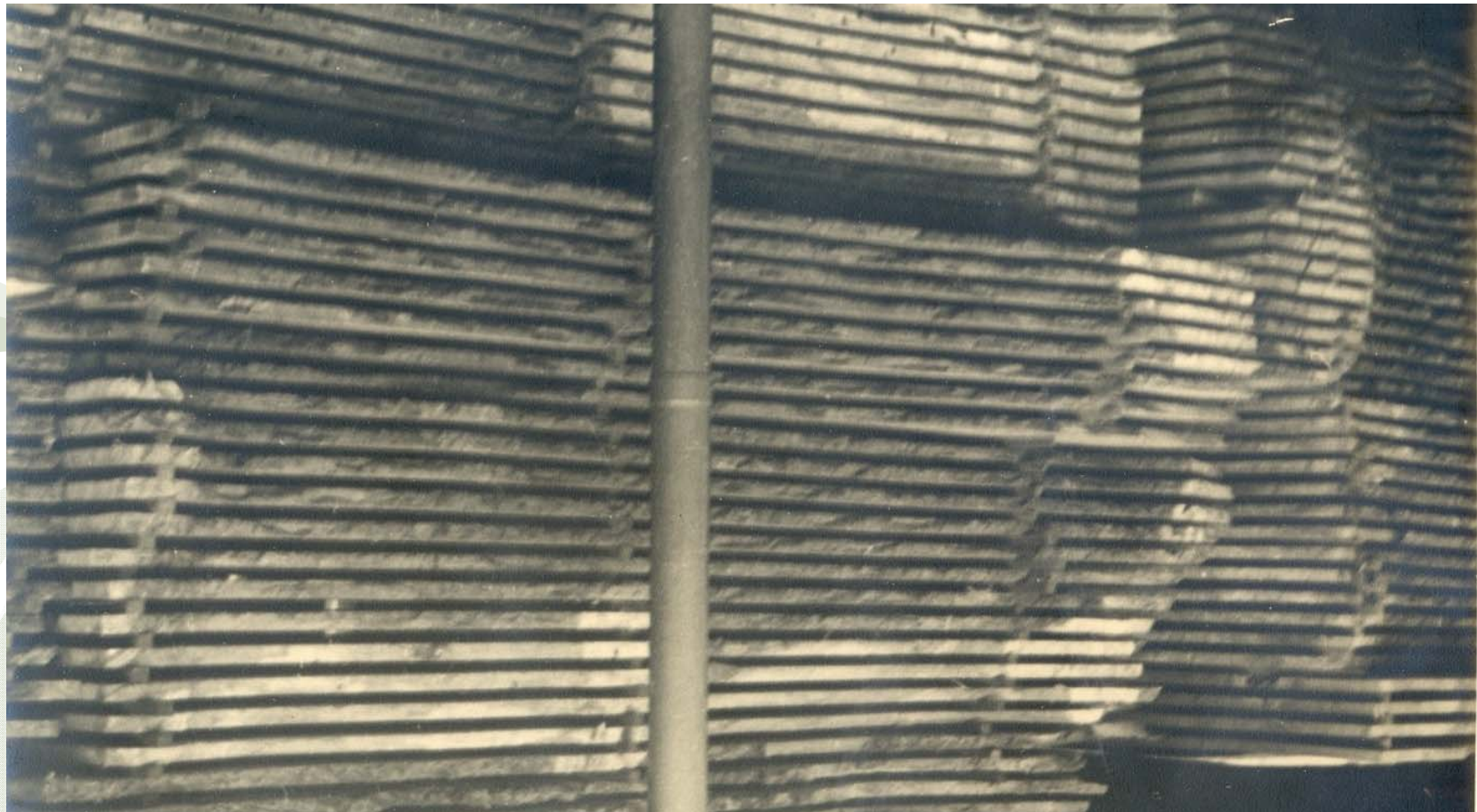


- Coffins- How have they changed?
- Public Expectations?
- Coffins and the environment?
- The FFMA testing Protocol.

Saw Mill - 1930, 40, 50 and 60s



Solid Timber “seasoning”



picture courtesy
of Brian Parsons

In the 1950s workshop



picture courtesy
of Brian Parsons

In the 1950s made “by hand”



picture courtesy
of Brian Parsons

Today's – Production Line



The Traditional Wood Coffin 1930s – 90s



Wood Coffins now



Reflections Coffins




Reflections[®]
Personalised picture coffins



The Country Range



Wool, Wicker, Bamboo,
Seagrass, Woodland, Greener Goodbyes



Guardian Caskets



Why - Public Expectations



Born in 1935



Jack Charlton

1950's

Formative Events



State Control



Calder Hall / Sellafield
1956



SMOG of 1952
Kills 4000

2016



Aged 81

Has arranged a funeral for a parent.
Probably has arranged a Funeral for a partner.

Born in 1945



Rod Stewart

1960's

Formative Events



England 1966



Summer of Love 1967



Apollo 11 1969

2016



Aged 71

Has arranged a funeral for a parent.
Possibly for a partner or friend.

Born in 1955



Alex Salmond

1970's

Formative Events



"Cold War"



"Winter of Discontent"



First Female Prime Minister

2016



Aged 61

Possibly arranged a funeral for a parent.
Probably not for a partner.

1935- 1975



A timeline of change for people arranging funerals in **2013**



Arranging funeral For a Partner

Jack Charlton



Arranging funeral For a Parent

Rod Stewart



Arranging funeral For a Parent

Alex Salmond

Will be arranging funerals in the near future for a parent



Vinnie Jones
Aged 50



Will be arranging funerals in the future

David Beckham
Aged 40

Communicating Grief



Formative Years - 1950s differ greatly from the 60s, 70s



The 50s generation more traditional - “state” led life choices.

- 60s and 70s developed to be more aspirational and individual with people having more “life choices”.
- In Death, it is logical the same applies.



Coffins and the environment



Accreditation awarded to JC Atkinson



The mark of responsible forestry



Initiatives



Coffin Testing

Are they Fit for purpose?



1) Safe to carry and load.

2) Combustable.

3) Render a compliant amount of Ash volume



The FFMA Testing Protocol



Developed, Owned and Administrated by
the FFMA.

Testing contracted to

Intertek

Designed by its members in consultation
with stakeholders including:-

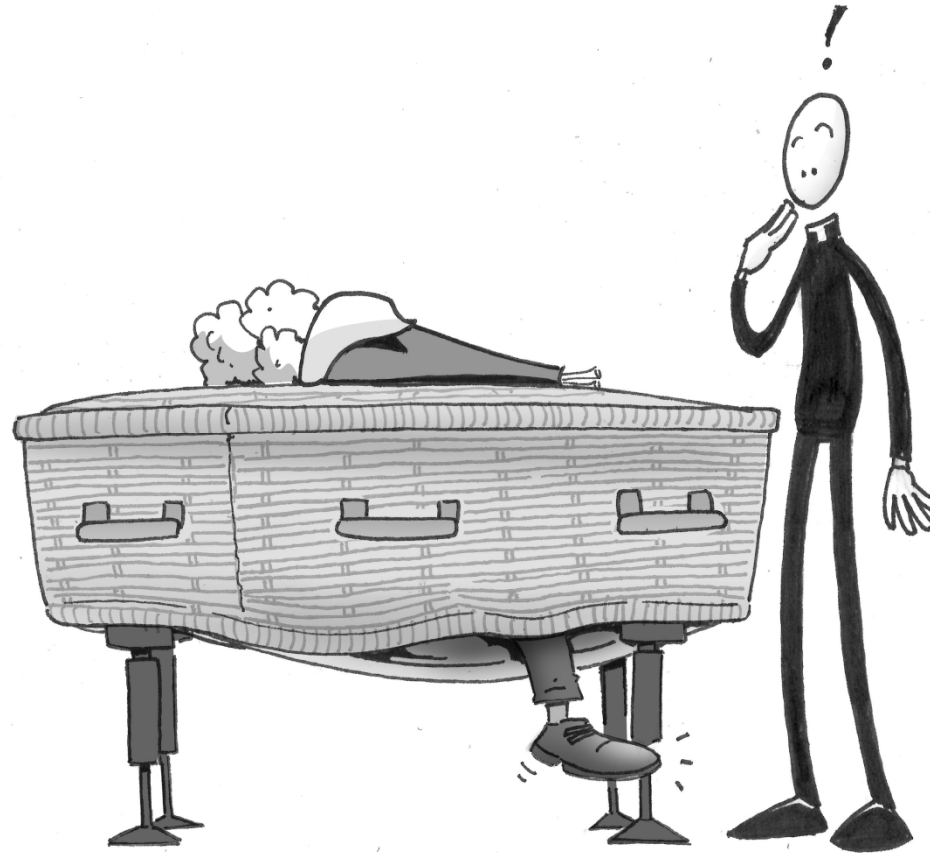
ICCM – Tim Morris

FBCA – Rick Powell

ACCP – Richard Baradell

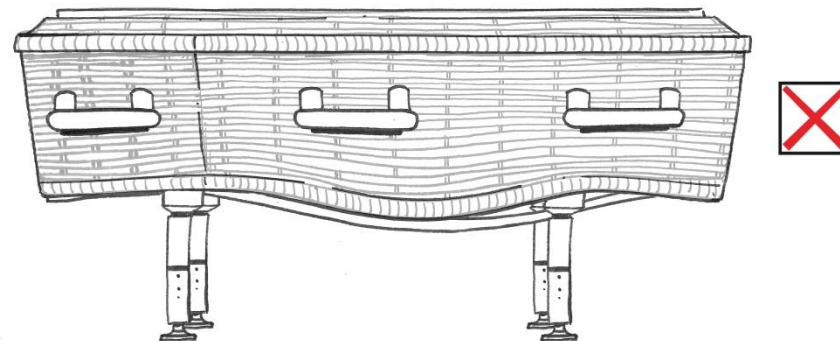
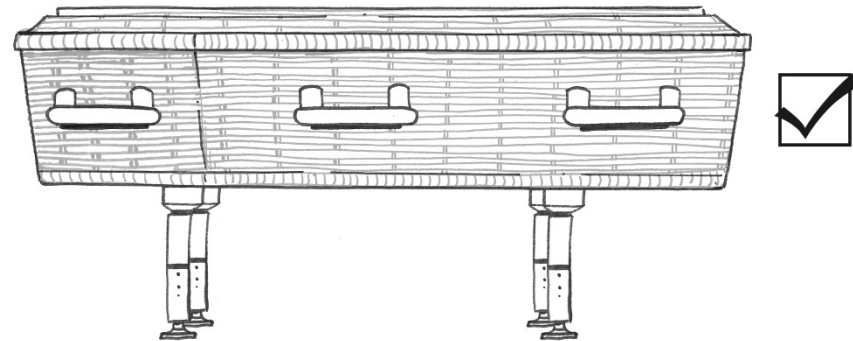
The Issue.

1.0 – COFFIN STRENGTH SCENARIO - *to avoid any possibility:-*



The Test

1.0 – COFFIN STRENGTH IS TESTED *we test with trestles and weights*

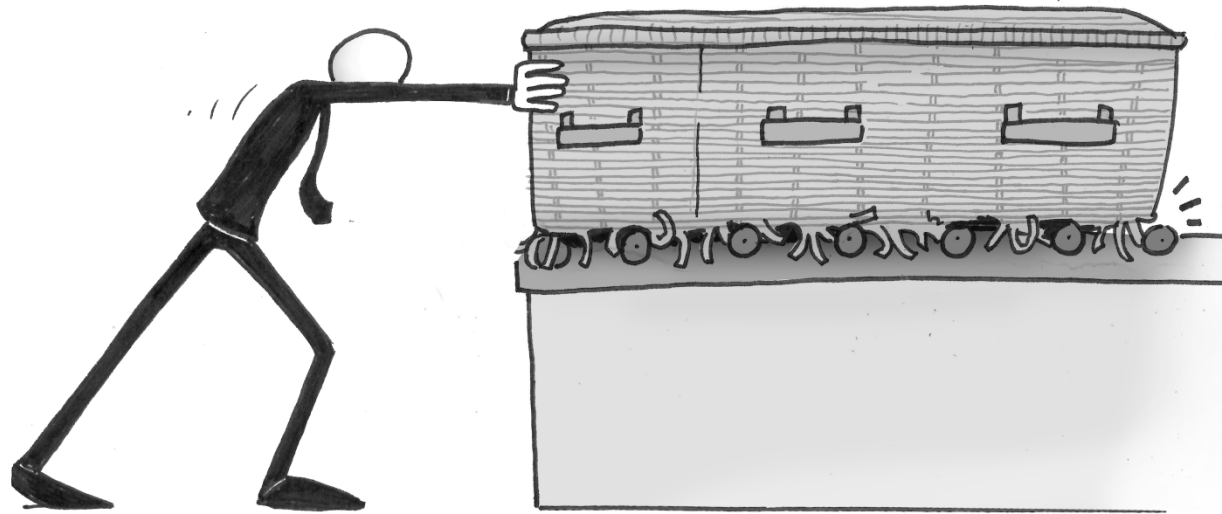


Pass / Fail Criteria

If measurement B – A exceeds 40mm then this would constitute a fail and the test would be discontinued. If after the defined loading period C - A exceeds 40mm this would be a fail. A product which failed catastrophically would also be a fail.

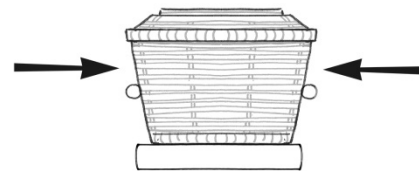
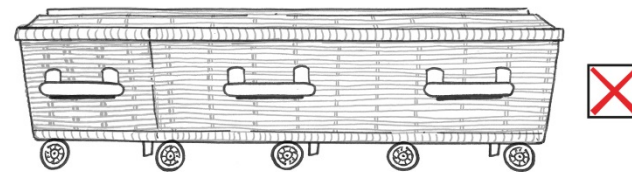
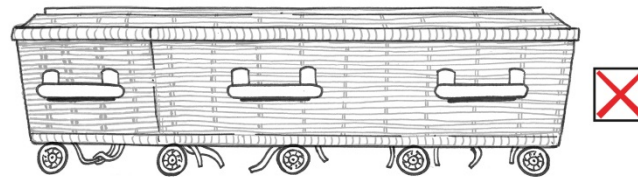
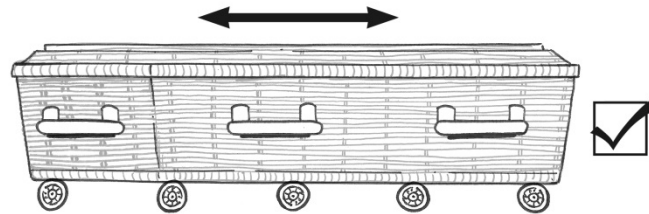
The Issue

2.0 a/b – SLIP FUNCTIONALITY SCENARIO *to avoid:-*



The test

2.0 a – ROLLER BEARING BED FUNCTIONALITY *we test for slip and drag*

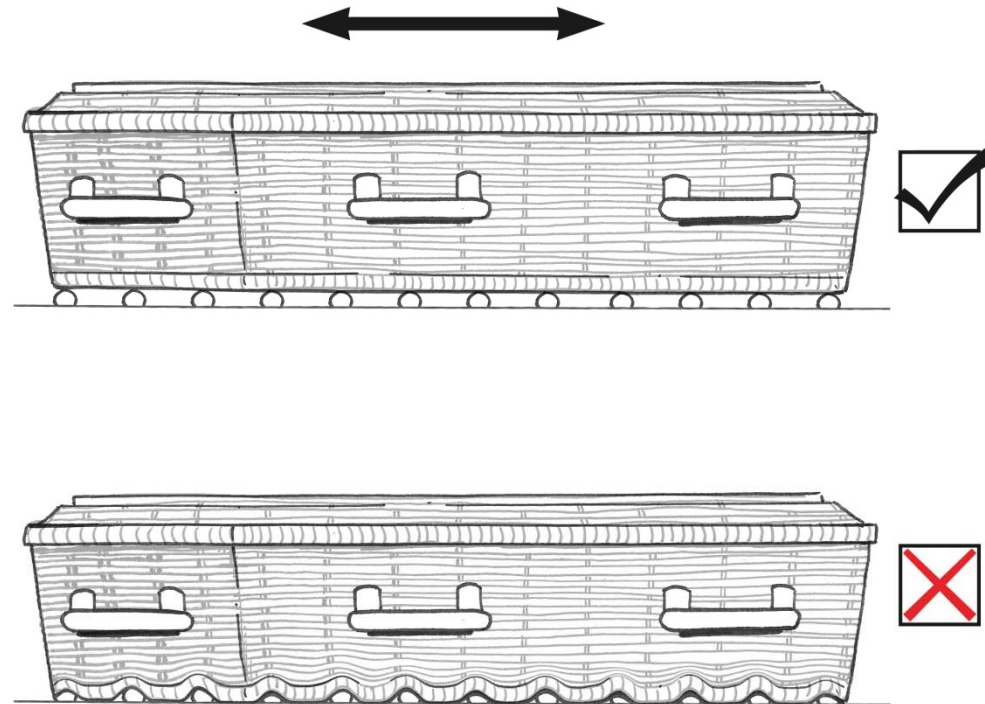


Pass / Fail Criteria

A fail would be if the product comes to a complete stop or jammed and halted to a stop.

The test

2.0 b – BALL BEARING BED FUNCTIONALITY PROTOCOL

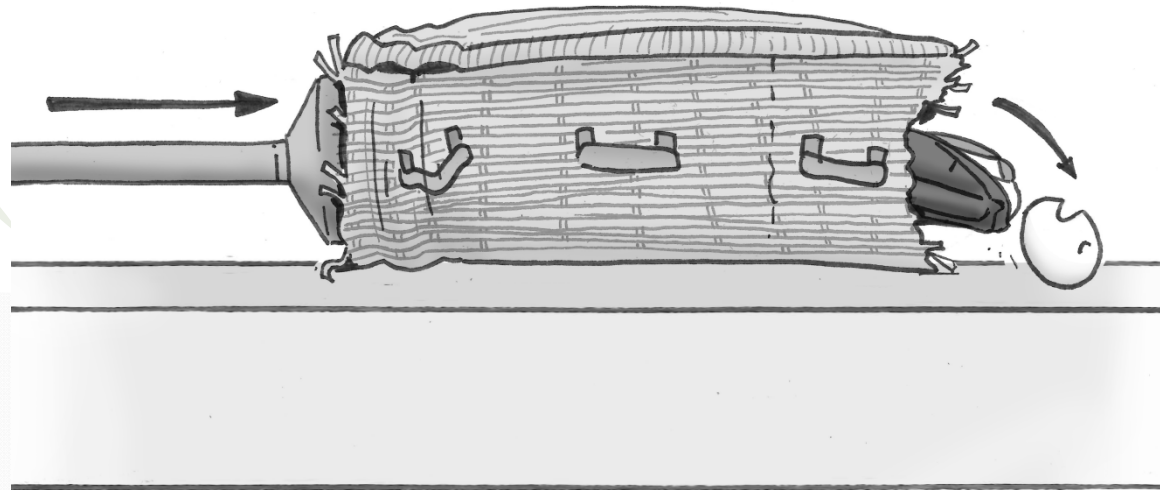


Pass / Fail Criteria

If a coffin is punctured or impedes movement, it shall be deemed to have failed the test. Fails will be recorded and photographed.

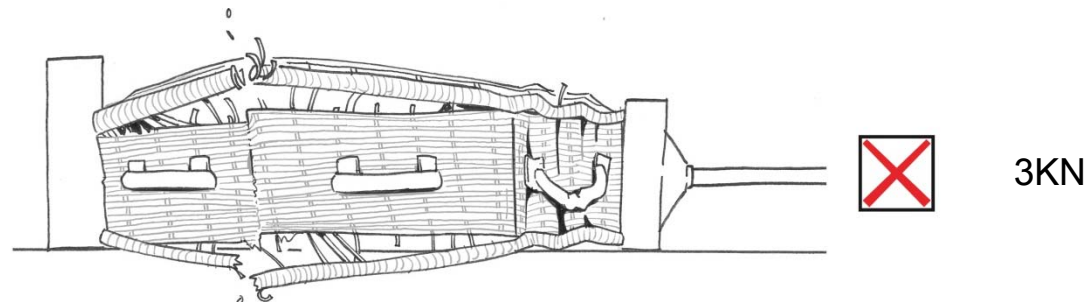
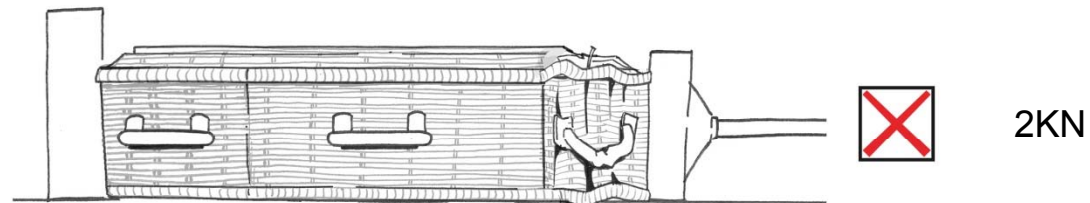
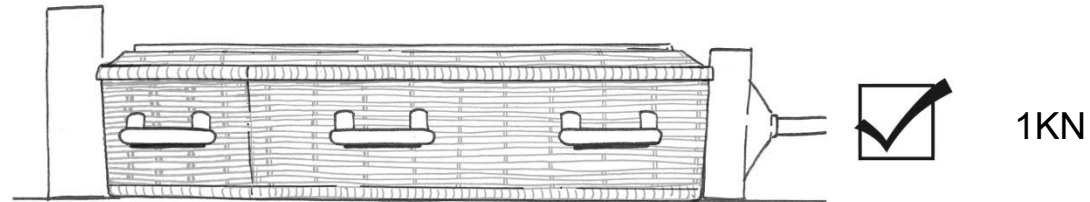
The issue

3.0 – AUTO CHARGER SCENARIO *to be sure to avoid:-*



The test

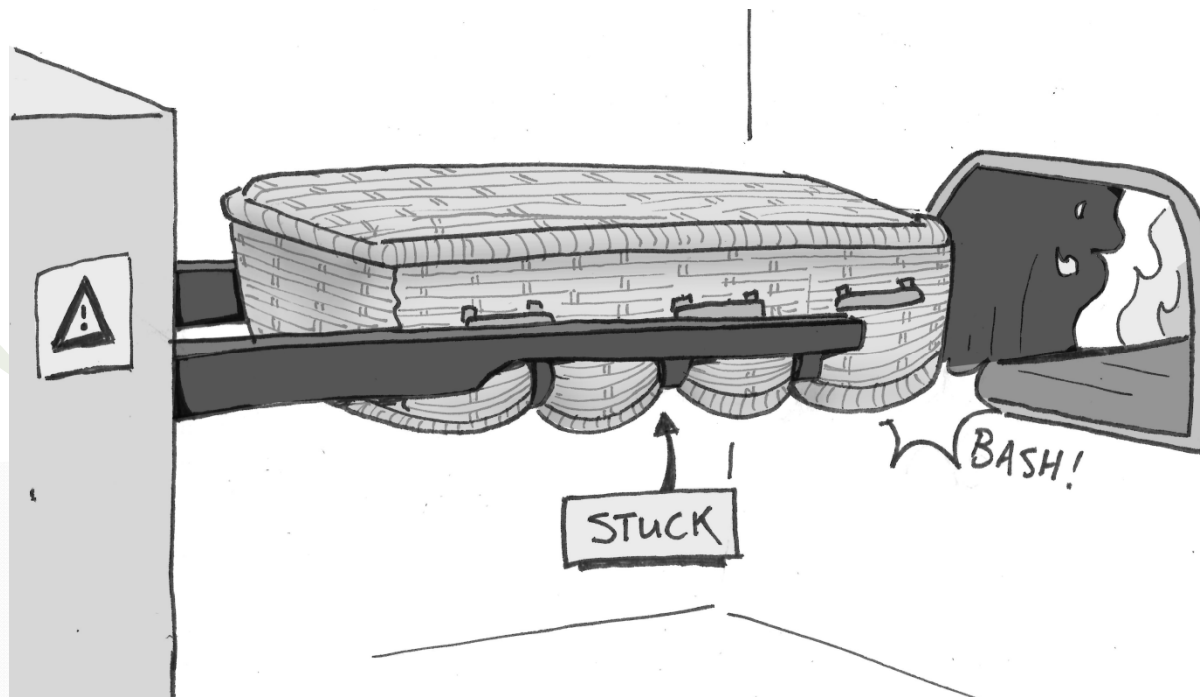
3.0 – AUTO CHARGER we test by loading the coffin at the end until distortion and destruction.



Pass / Fail Criteria

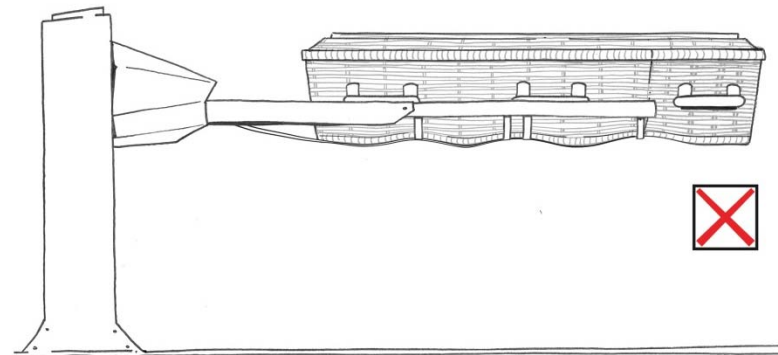
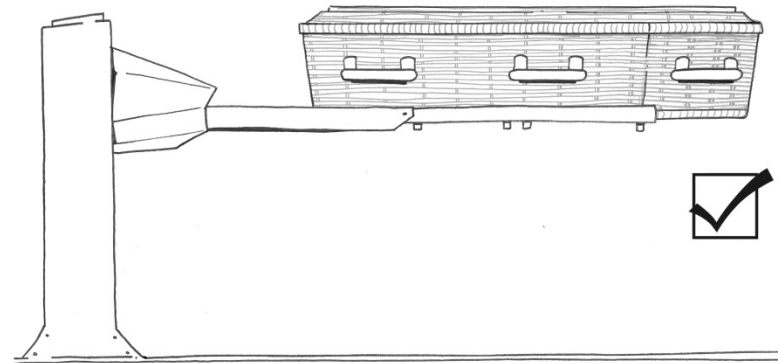
A coffin would fail if the coffin / casket breaks and its integrity fails.
Fails will be recorded and photographed.

The issue
4.0 – TABO - MECHANICAL INSERTION MACHINE
to avoid:-



The test

4.0 – MECHANICAL INSERTION MACHINE, *tested checking for distortion*



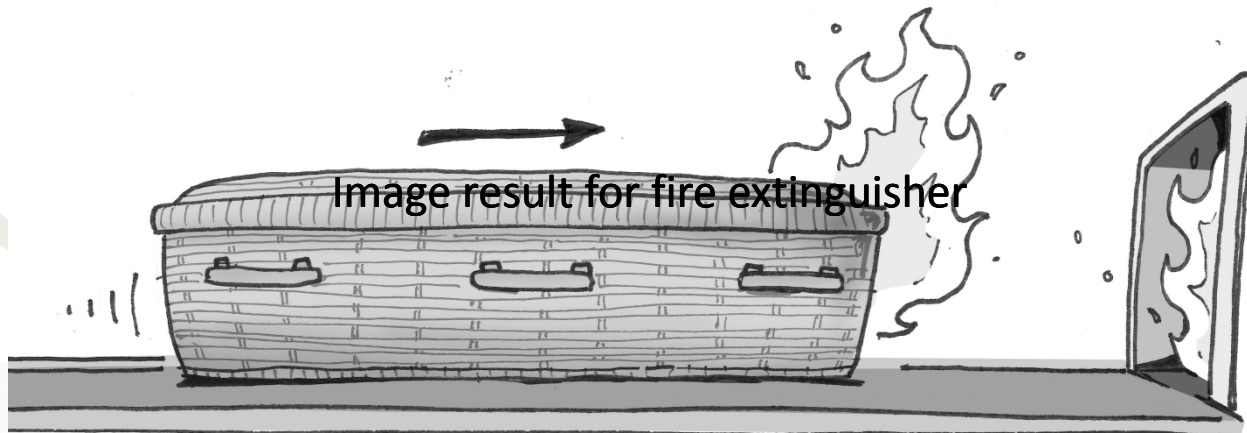
10 Minutes

Pass / Fail Criteria

A fail would be if the product distorts around the supporting fingers or if complete product failure occurs.
Fails will be recorded and photographed.

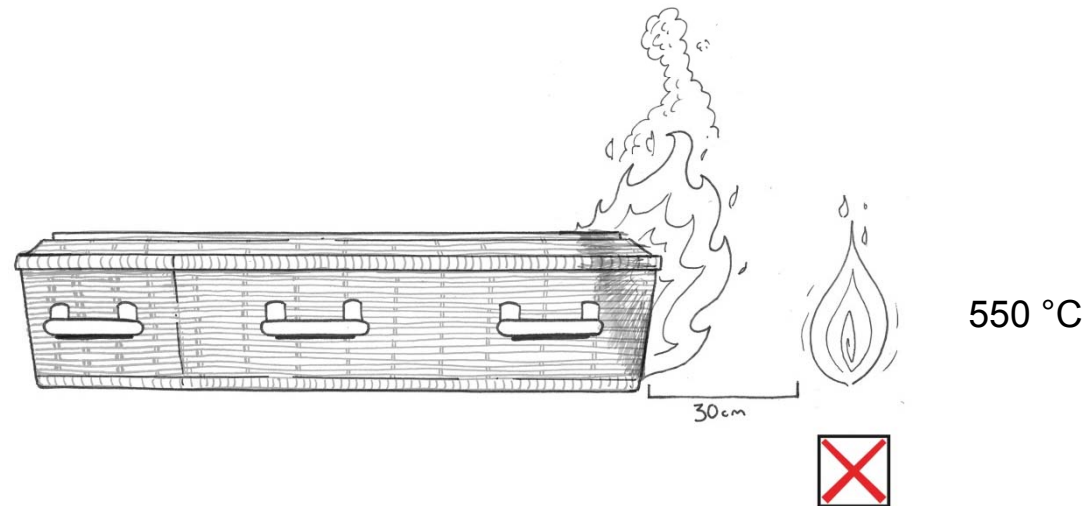
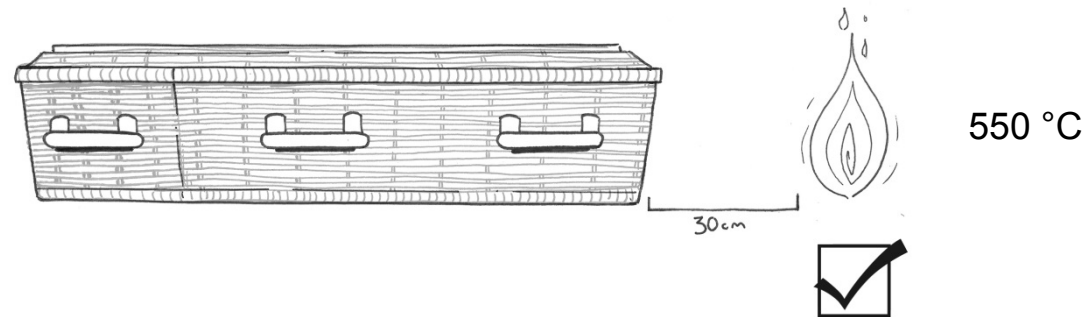
The issue

5.0 – IGNITION / RADIANT HEAT SCENARIO *to be sure we avoid:-*



The test

5.0 – IGNITION / RADIANT HEAT *we tested subjecting the sample to a variation of temperatures.*

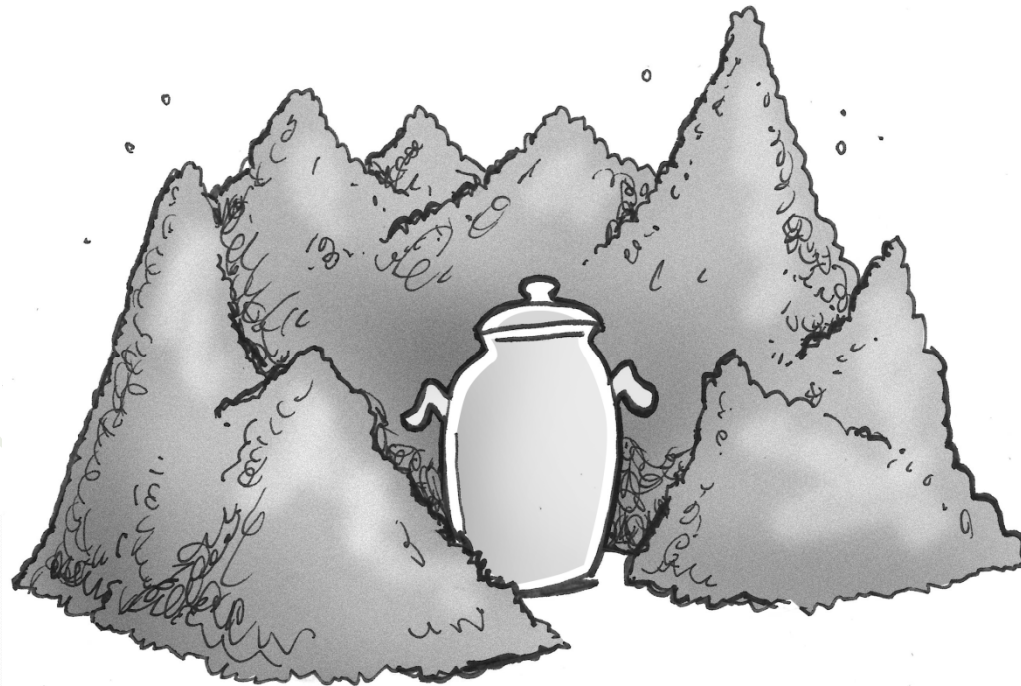


Pass / Fail Criteria

The material must not ignite below a temperature of 550 °C (degrees centigrade).

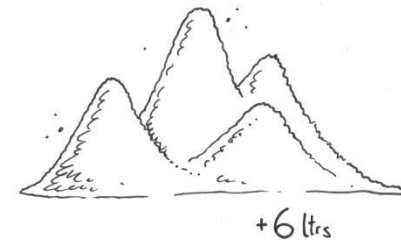
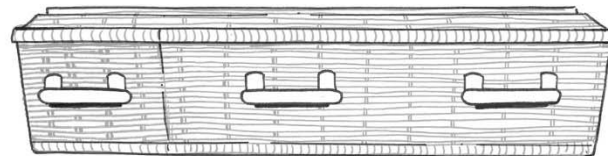
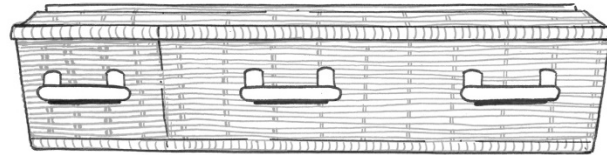
Note: We need to consider the test results and consider the likely door temperature and exposure time. The Cremation Sector is as yet to provide its own handling guidance. It is acknowledged differences in equipment and practice. Coffins on the market now don't cause concerns so it the test results are of significant interest to see how they perform. Also some crematoria also dampen down coffins manage risk / outcomes.

The issue
6.0 – ASH SCENARIO *to avoid*:-



The test

6.0 – ASH PROTOCOL – *we measure the ash volume taking into account the size / style of coffin and size of person.*

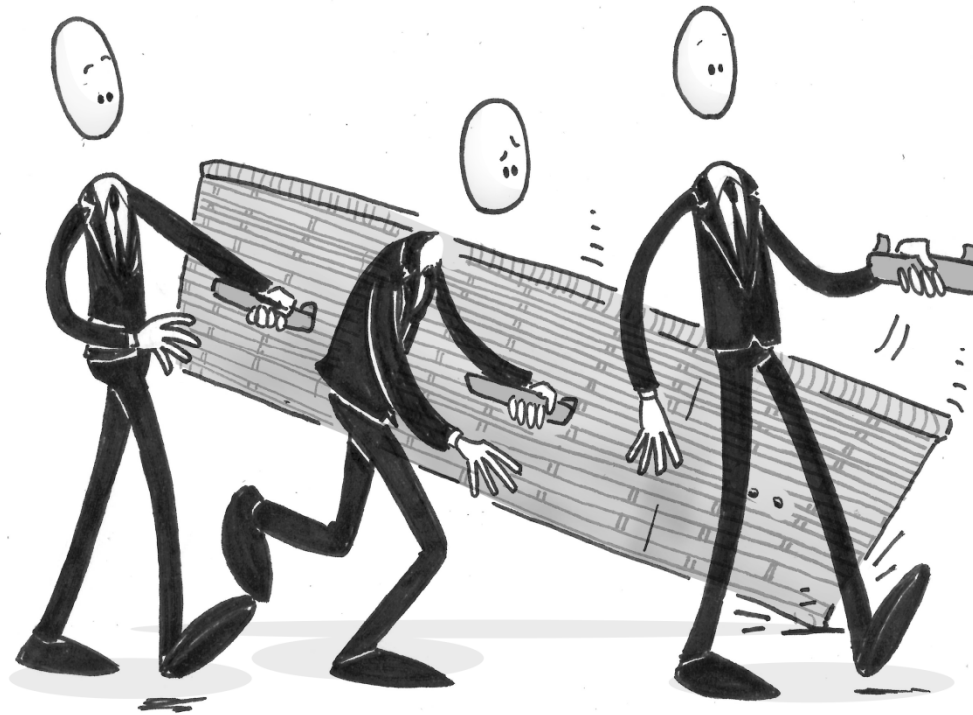


Pass / Fail Criteria

Ash (calculated with deceased) in excess of 6 liters would be deemed a fail.

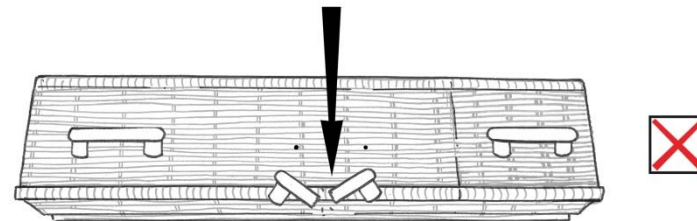
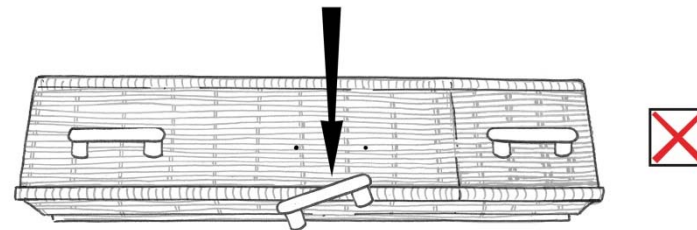
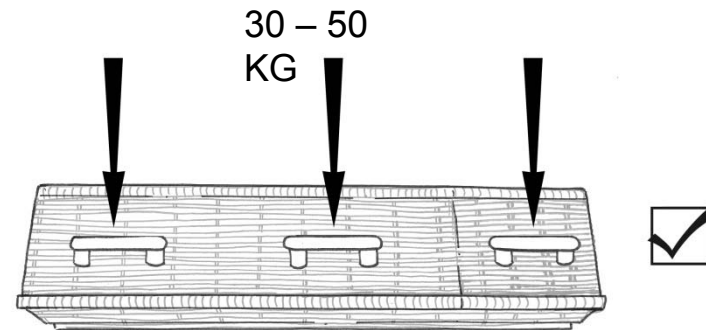
Note: Refer to FFMA ash recommendation for more information.

The issue
7.0 – HANDLE SCENARIO – *to avoid.*



The test

7.0 – HANDLE PROTOCOL *we load the handles to check for strength.*



Pass / Fail Criteria

A fail would be if the handle became detached from the coffin or the handle itself failed.

Fails will be recorded and photographed. The weight at which the handle failed will be recorded.

Note: Coffins and caskets fitted with handles should not be assumed to be load bearing as many types and styles are added for decoration purposes or to guide the coffin only.

The issue

8.0 – RESIDUE SCENARIO – *to avoid un-wanted residues in the ash or “stuff” stuck to the hearth*



The test

8.0 – RESIDUE PROTOCOL *we test, by burning samples and checking for non-combustible material and residue*

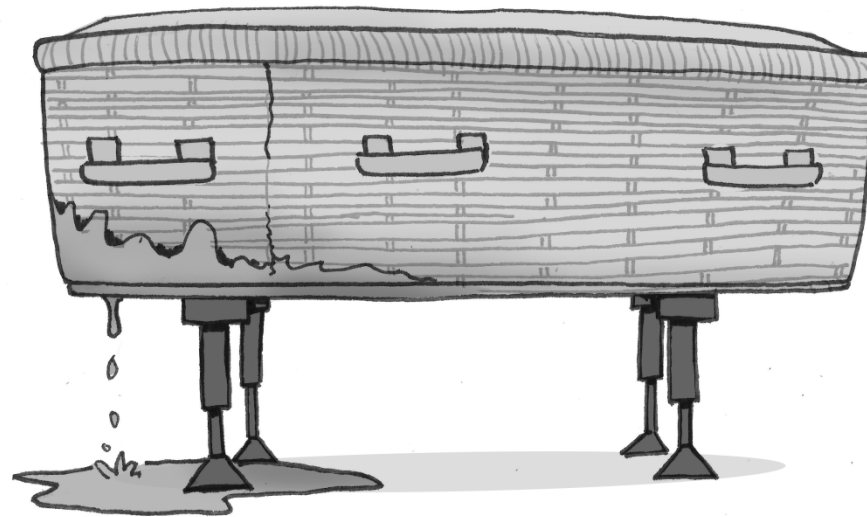


Pass / Fail Criteria

A fail would be if residue was evident.
Fails will be recorded and photographed.

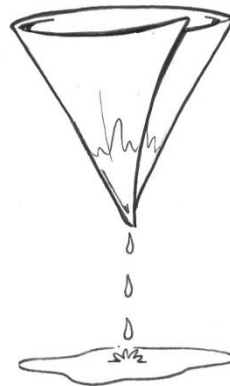
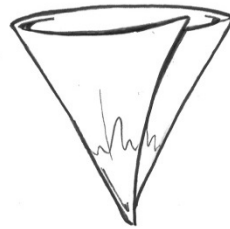
The issue

9.0 – COFFIN LINING SCENARIO *to be sure avoid:-*



The test

9.0 – COFFIN LINING PROTOCOL:- *we test the coffin lining used by manufactures ensuring it is leak proof.*



Pass / Fail Criteria

Pass: the substrate showed no sign of leakage.

Fail: the substrate leaked.

Fails will be recorded and photographed.

How do you know a Coffin or Casket has been tested by the FFMA?



Look for the FFMA trademarked quality logo on the base of the Coffin or Casket





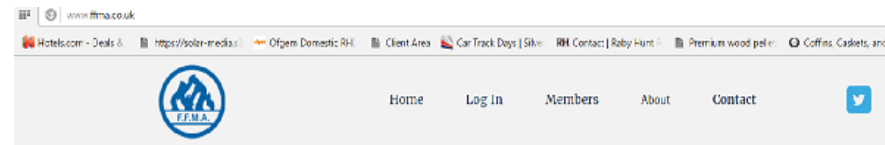
www.FFMA.co.uk



Online and subscribe will give you access to :-

1. Manufacturers guidance for each passed product.
2. The detailed Testing protocol.
3. Industry guidance & other recommendations.
4. Raise a concern with the FFMA about all members products.

Subscription - £50.00 P.Y.



Welcome to the FFMA

Established in 1939, the Funeral Furnishing Manufacturers Association (FFMA) is the link between manufacturers/suppliers of goods and the end users - the funeral directors and the crematoria. Its aim is to ensure that quality goods are produced and the traditionally high standards are maintained within the profession.

[Read more](#)



Register

Register with the FFMA for advanced user access, including

Join

Join the FFMA as a member to have your products tested

A selection of participating members ;

BRADNAM JOINERY
Understated excellence since 1908

LifeArt 
Deserve to be

CREATIVECOFFINS
Beautifully designed & individually personalised
picture coffins and ashes caskets.



THE
**SOMERSET
WILLOW
COMPANY**

 **Greenfield
COFFINS**


**STEVE SOULT
LIMITED**

**Any Questions?
Thanks for
Listening.**

TRIBUTES 

**NATURAL
WOVEN PRODUCTS**

Oasis Coffins

 **SIMPEX-JS**
Willow coffins maker

Coates English Willow
quality willow coffins

**CO
OP**


Dignity[®]

Hewkin & Associates Ltd


HALLIDAY
FUNERAL SUPPLIES LTD

 **JC Atkinson**

 **RESPECT**
COFFIN-LESS-SHROUDS FOR 'EVERYBODY'


**Colourful
Coffins**
as individual as you


Eco Coffin




**Musgrove
Willows**
Somerset's Premier Willow Grower

**NATURAL
WOVEN PRODUCTS**